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Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PA-03

USIA-12 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 RSR-01 SCSE-00 SCA-01

/124 W
---------- 061374
R 270554 Y JUN 73
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5208
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 7503

BEIRUT FOR RCAA AND FAA
BRUSSELS FOR FAA.

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: ETRN IN JA
SUBJECT: COURT OF INQUIRY REPORT ON JAL CRASH

BEGIN SUMMARY: PRESS RELEASE ON REPORT OF COURT OF INQUIRY ON JAL DC-8 CRASH CONCLUDES THAT ACCIDENT CAUSED BY PILOT ERROR. ACTION REQUESTED: DOES DEPARTMENT WISH EMBASSY TRY TO OBTAIN COPY? END SUMMARY

1. COURT OF INQUIRY APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE CRASH OF JAPAN AIRLINES DC-8 NEAR DELHI JUNE 14, 1972 HAS SUBMITTED ITS REPORT TO GOVERNMENTPOF INDIA. REPORT ITSELF HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED TO PUBLIC. TEXT OF CIVIL AVIATION MINISTRY PRESS RELEASED DATED JUNE 21 CONCERNING COURT' S REPORT FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT.

" THE GOVERNMEVT OF INDIA HAVE RECEIVED THE REPORT OF THE
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COURT OF INQUIRY APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CRASH OF JAPAN AIRLINES' DC-8 AIRCRAFT NEAR DELHI ON JUNE 14, 1972. SHRI JUSTICE PRAKASH NARAINA JUDGE OF THE DELHI HIGH COURT CONSTITUTED THE COURT WHICH WAS ASSISTED

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BY THREE ASSESSORS, SHRI A. V. VARTAK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION, SHRI K. N. KATHJU, DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING, INDIAN AIRLINES CAPT. A. N. J. RAY, DEPUTY OPERATIONS MANAGER, AIR INDIA. THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN HAD DESIGNATED MR. H. KANAI AND MR. KASAMATSU TO BE PRESENT AT THE INQUIRY.

" THE AIRCRAFT WITH 89 PERSONS (78 PASSENGERS AND 11 CREW MEMBERS) ON BOARD AQAS ON A SCHEDULED FLIGHT FROM BANGKOK TO DELHI AND HAD BEEN CLEARED FOR A STRAIGHT- IN ILS APPROACH BUT LOST TOUCH WITH PALAM CONTROL A FEW MINUTES BEFORE EXPECTED TOUCH- DOWN. IT WAS LATER FOUND TO HAVE CRASHED ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF DELHI.

" THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, AS A RESULT OF THEIR STUDY OF THE REPORT, HAVE COME TO THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS WITH REGARD TO THE ACCIDENT:

(1) THERE HAS BEEN FOUND NO EVIDENCE THAT INDICATES ABNORMAL OPERATION OR MAL- FUNCTIONING OF THE AIRCRAFT, ITS ENGINES AND AIRBORNE EQUIPMENT DURING THE FLIGHT; NOR HAS THERE BEEN FOUND ANY EVIDENCE INDICATING THAT AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT THERE WAS ABNORMAL OPERATION OR MAL- FUNCTIONING OF ANY NAVIGATIONAL AND LANDING AIDS AT DELHI AIRPORT.

(2) THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT APPEARS TO BE THE DESCENT OF THE AIRCRAFT AT AN UNUSUALLY HIGH RATE WHICH WAS NOT REALIZED BY THE FLIGHT CREW UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT WHILE NO CLEAR EVIDENCE HAS BEEN FOUND DETERMINING THE CAUSE OLTHIS UNUSUAL DESCENT, THE DISASTER COULD HAVE BEEN AVERTED IF THE FLIGHT CREW FULLY CROSS- CHECKED THE INSTRUMENT INDICATIONS.

" BASED ON CERTAIN FACTORS WHICH HAVE COME TO LIGHT IN THE COURSE OF THE INVESTIGATION. THE COURT HAS MADE CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH ARE BEING EXAMINED FOR
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IMPLEMENTATION BY THE CONCERNED AUTHORITIES.

" WHILE GENERALLY AGREEING WITH THE FINDINGS OF THE COURT AS WELL AS ITS OPINION AS TO THE CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT, THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DO NOT SHARE THE OBSERVATION MADE IN SOME PARAGRAPHS REGARDING THE " LACK OF CO- OPERATION" ON THE PART OF THE JAPANESE AUTHORITIES IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE CRASH." END TEXT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED. IF DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS THAT FULL COURT OF INQUIRY REPORT WOULD BE USEFUL, EMBASSY CAN TRY TO OBTAIN COPY FROM GOI. PLEASE ADVISE. SCHNEIDER

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